

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A power tool for imparting a rotational impact force to an end tool, comprising:

a housing;

a powered drive source;

a speed reduction mechanism portion comprising a gear that is substantially rotatably fixed with respect ~~arranged relative~~ to the housing and transmitting a rotational power of said powered drive source;

a striking mechanism portion for converting the rotational power of said speed reduction mechanism portion into a striking force; and

an impact damping mechanism for damping an impact on said speed reduction mechanism portion in a direction of rotation of said gear relative to said housing, ~~wherein the gear is arranged relative to the housing such that the gear is only slightly rotatable relative to the housing, wherein said speed reduction mechanism comprises a fixed gear support jig, and wherein said impact damping mechanism comprises an impact damping member formed in a hole in said fixed gear support jig.~~

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A power tool according to claim 1, wherein said impact damping mechanism comprises:

a projection, formed on said gear of said speed reduction mechanism portion,; and

wherein said ~~an~~ impact damping member is provided ~~is provided~~ adjacent to said projection ~~and said a fixed gear support jig mounted in a housing.~~

Claim 3. (Canceled).

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A power tool according to claim 2, wherein said projection on said gear is formed on a side surface or an outer surface of said gear.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A power tool according to claim 2, wherein said impact damping member is between said gear and said fixed gear support jig, ~~and is provided between a bearing of said striking mechanism portion or a bearing of said speed reduction mechanism portion and said housing.~~

Claims 6-7. (Canceled).

Claim 8. (Previously presented) A power tool according to claim 1, wherein the drive source comprises a motor.

Claims 9-12. (Canceled).

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A tool for imparting a rotational impact force to an end tool, comprising:

a housing;

a drive source;

a speed reduction mechanism comprising a gear that is substantially rotationally fixed ~~arranged~~ relative to the housing and transmitting a power of said drive source;

a striking mechanism for converting the power of said transmitting mechanism into a striking force; and

an impact damping mechanism for damping an impact of said speed reduction mechanism in a direction of rotation of said gear relative to the housing, ~~wherein the gear is arranged relative to the housing such that the gear is only slightly rotatable relative to the housing, wherein said speed reduction mechanism comprises a fixed gear support jig, and wherein said impact damping mechanism comprises an impact damping member formed in a hole in said fixed gear support jig.~~

Claim 14. (Canceled).

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 13, wherein said striking mechanism converts the rotational power of said speed reduction mechanism into said striking force.

Claim 16. (Canceled).

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 13, further comprising:

an end tool for outputting the striking force and a rotation force of said speed reduction mechanism through said striking mechanism.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) The tool of claim 13, wherein said impact damping mechanism further comprises:

a projection formed on said gear of said speed reduction mechanism; and  
wherein said an impact damping member is ~~provided~~ adjacent to said projection and  
said a fixed gear support jig.

Claim 19. (Canceled).

Claim 20. (Currently amended) An impact tool, powered by a driving force, for  
imparting a rotational impact force to an end tool, said impact tool comprising:

a housing; ~~and~~

a speed reduction mechanism comprising:

a gear that is substantially rotationally fixed relative ~~arranged~~ to the housing;

and

an impact damping mechanism for damping said rotational impact force on a

speed reduction mechanism in a direction of rotation of said gear relative to the

housing; and

a striking mechanism for converting the power of said speed reduction mechanism  
into said rotational impact force;

~~wherein the gear is arranged relative to the housing such that the gear is only slightly~~  
~~rotatable relative to the housing, wherein said speed reduction mechanism further comprises a~~  
~~fixed gear support jig, and wherein said impact damping mechanism comprises an impact~~  
~~damping member formed in a hole in said fixed gear support jig.~~

Claim 21. (Canceled).

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 20 ~~21~~, wherein said impact damping mechanism further comprises:

a projection, formed on said gear of said speed reduction mechanism, and

wherein said an impact damping member is provided adjacent to said projection and said a fixed gear support jig mounted in a housing of said impact tool.

Claims 23-24. (Canceled).

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The power tool of claim 1 ~~24~~, wherein said hole comprises a pair of holes which are oppositely disposed on said fixed gear support jig.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The power tool of claim 25, wherein said impact damping member comprises a plurality of impact damping members such that a pair of said plurality of impact damping members are formed in each of said pair of holes.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The power tool of claim 26, wherein said impact damping member further comprises a pair of projections formed on said gear of said speed reduction mechanism, each of said projections being disposed between a pair of said impact damping members.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) A tool for imparting a rotational impact force to an end tool, comprising:

a drive source;

a housing;

a speed reducer that comprises:

a fixed gear support jig that is fixedly supported by said a housing of said tool;

and

a gear that is substantially rotationally fixed ~~arranged~~ relative to said housing by said fixed gear support jig and that transmits a rotational movement from said drive source;

a striking mechanism that converts said rotational movement into a striking force; and

an impact damping mechanism that dampens a rotational impact between said gear and said housing, ~~wherein the gear is arranged relative to the housing such that the gear is only slightly rotatable relative to the housing,~~ wherein said impact damping mechanism comprises an impact damping member formed in a hole in said fixed gear support jig.

Claim 29. (Currently amended) A power tool for imparting a rotational impact force to an end tool, comprising:

a main body portion comprising:

a housing;

a motor serving as a drive source,

a speed reduction mechanism portion for transmitting a rotational power of said motor, and

a mechanical portion for transmitting the rotational power of the speed reduction mechanism portion to the end tool; and

a handle portion connected to the main body portion,

wherein said speed reduction mechanism portion comprises:

a first gear that is substantially rotationally fixed ~~arranged~~ relative to the housing and comprising ~~another~~ a second gear in an inner periphery of the first gear, and

a fixed gear support member that holds the first gear,

wherein a projection extends toward the motor from a side of the first gear, and

wherein a hole portion that engages the projection is defined in the support member;

~~wherein the gear is arranged relative to the housing such that the gear is only slightly rotatable relative to the housing.~~

Claim 30. (Currently amended) The power tool of claim 29, wherein the first gear is held, so as to rotate ~~only very slightly~~, by the fixed gear support member.

Claim 31. (Currently amended) The power tool of claim 29, further comprising:  
an impact damping mechanism disposed in the hole portion of the support member in a rotating direction of the first gear.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The power tool of claim 29, wherein an outer periphery of the support member is in contact with an inner peripheral surface of a housing of the main body portion, and wherein a rotation stoppage projection extends from a side of the housing toward the motor.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The power tool of claim 29, wherein an impact

damping member is disposed on each side of the projection.

Claims 34-37. (Canceled).

Claim 38. (New) The power tool of claim 13, wherein said hole comprises a pair of holes which are oppositely disposed on said fixed gear support jig.

Claim 39. (New) The power tool of claim 38, wherein said impact damping member comprises a plurality of impact damping members such that a pair of said plurality of impact damping members are formed in each of said pair of holes.

Claim 40. (New) The power tool of claim 39, wherein said impact damping member further comprises a pair of projections formed on said gear of said speed reduction mechanism, each of said projections being disposed between a pair of said impact damping members.

Claim 41. (New) The power tool of claim 20, wherein said hole comprises a pair of holes which are oppositely disposed on said fixed gear support jig.

Claim 42. (New) The power tool of claim 41, wherein said impact damping member comprises a plurality of impact damping members such that a pair of said plurality of impact damping members are formed in each of said pair of holes.



Claim 43. (New) The power tool of claim 42, wherein said impact damping member further comprises a pair of projections formed on said gear of said speed reduction mechanism, each of said projections being disposed between a pair of said impact damping members.

Claim 44. (New) The power tool of claim 28, wherein said hole comprises a pair of holes which are oppositely disposed on said fixed gear support jig.

Claim 45. (New) The power tool of claim 44, wherein said impact damping member comprises a plurality of impact damping members such that a pair of said plurality of impact damping members are formed in each of said pair of holes.

Claim 46. (New) The power tool of claim 45, wherein said impact damping member further comprises a pair of projections formed on said gear of said speed reduction mechanism, each of said projections being disposed between a pair of said impact damping members.